

- 245, Wire Fabrics and Structure, appropriate subclasses, for such structure of general utility.

500.1 **Material:**

This subclass is indented under subclass 348.

Compositions comprising materials to be used in filter apparatus.

- (1) Note. Materials consisting of fibers (e.g., paper) comprising a homogeneous mass of fibers, with or without binders or randomly dispersed fillers made by a Class 162 method are in Class 162 even though defined as a filter material. Such material having additional features peculiar to filtration are in Class 210, subclasses, 500.1+ e.g., perforations, fibers on a perforated backing, strata of fibers of different kinds, etc.
- (2) Note. A patent for stock material which may have filtering properties but in which there is no claimed internal or external structure particularly adapting the material for use as a filter will be placed in the appropriate stock material class. See, especially, Class 428, Stock Material or Miscellaneous Articles, and the search notes thereunder.
- (3) Note. A composition claimed or disclosed solely as a sorbent or claimed as a filter aid and disclosed to aid filtering solely as a sorbent is classifiable in Class 502. A composition claimed as filtering material i.e., by presenting apertures or interstices of a size functioning to retain solid matter by a screening or sieving action with or without a sorbing action is classifiable in Class 210, subclasses 500.1+. Class 210, subclass 500.1 filter material is superior to Class 502. A copy of a patent properly classified in 210, subclasses 500.1+ will be crossed to Class 502 only on the basis of a novel sorbent material.

SEE OR SEARCH THIS CLASS, SUBCLASS:

483+, for supported, shaped, or superimposed filter mediums.

SEE OR SEARCH CLASS:

- 106, Compositions: Coating or Plastic, appropriate subclasses for plastic compositions in general, and see (2) Note of that class definition.
- 139, Textiles: Weaving, 383+ for fabrics having no particular shape or specific structure peculiar to filtering.
- 162, Paper Making and Fiber Liberation, (see (1) Note).
- 204, Chemistry: Electrical and Wave Energy, 295+ for diaphragms or membranes to be used in electrolytic apparatus.
- 252, Compositions, 175+ for water softening or purifying compositions; subclasses 182.11 + for filter materials which exert a chemical action.
- 428, Stock Material or Miscellaneous Articles, 304.4+ for a product of composite form in which one component is either porous or cellular and subclasses 357 + for a mass or layer of

structurally defined or coated elements (e.g., fibers, filaments, particles).

- 429, Chemistry: Electrical Current Producing Apparatus, Product and Process, 129+ and 247 + for separators (diaphragm) specialized for that class.
- 442, Fabric (Woven, Knitted, or Nonwoven Textile or Cloth, etc.), 409+ for an autogenously bonded nonwoven fabric.
- 502, Catalyst, Solid Sorbent, or Support Therefor: Product or Process of Making, for a composition comprising a catalyst or sorbent, per se.

500.21 **Semipermeable membrane:**

This subclass is indented under subclass 500.1.

Subject matter directed to semipermeable membrane specified primarily in terms of the nature of the composition or compositions of which it is made.

- (1) Note. See "membrane" and the reference therein to "semipermeable membrane" in the Glossary of the main class definition of this class.
- (2) Note. For a membrane having structure (said structure may, for example, be described in terms of, being semipermeable or selective or permselective, defining pore dimension or shape, flux or permeation rate, retention characteristics, porosity, overall membrane shape (e.g., tube or hollow fiber), pore configuration (for example, symmetric (e.g., isotropic or unskinned) or asymmetric (e.g., anisotropic or skinned), bubble point, birefringence, etc.), which is disclosed to be solely or primarily useful in a Class 210, Liquid Purification or Separation process (e.g., dialysis, reverse osmosis, ultrafiltration, hyperfiltration, microfiltration) classification in Class 210 is proper. For a membrane which is a stock material disclosed to be of more general utility (e.g. not primarily useful for such a Class 210 process) and for which no such structure is claimed, classification in the appropriate stock material class is proper. A membrane of only nominally recited structure, i.e., simply characterized as a membrane or film without any other significant structure such as that referred to above, of a specific chemical composition, is properly classifiable in the appropriate chemical composition class. Class 210 is superior to Class 96. Consequently, membranes claimed for use in Class 96, Gas Separation: Apparatus (including membranes for removal of a gas from a liquid) and claimed for use in Class 210, Liquid Purification or Separation apparatus (or membranes for "fluid" separation) are classified in Class 210 as originals and cross-referenced to Class 96. For membranes or diaphragms useful for: (a) processes of electrical, radiant, wave energy or magnetic separation or purification of liquids (including more than the mere application of a magnetic field to liquid to separate magnetic particles therefrom) classification in Class 204 is proper; (b) processes of use as a battery separator, classification in Class 429 is proper: however, in regard to membranes useful in processes of both Classes 210 and 204 and/or 429, Class 210 subclasses 500.1+ has superiority over both Classes 204 and 429, based upon 210 subclasses 500.1+ occurring first in the Patent Office classes of the